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Ward, Harry Parker, 1865-1926.

* A brief sketch of the life of Persis Follett Parker [microform] : together with a few notes of family history. -- Columbus, Ohio : Champlin Print. Co., 1893.

43 p., [2] leaves of plates : ports. ; 20

cm.

"The Follett ancestors": p. [27]-35.

"The Fassett ancestors": p. [36]-41.

Illustrated material preserved in MicRR.

Call number of original: CS71.F665 1893.

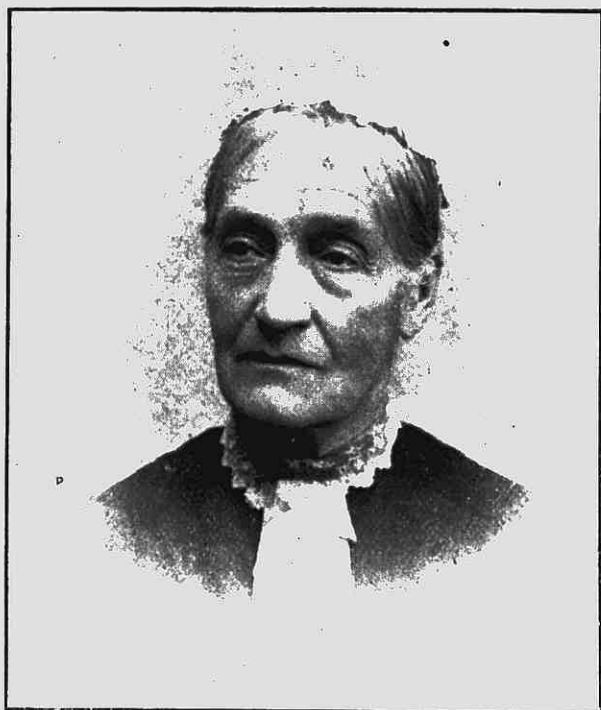
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Persis Follett Parker



PERSIS FOLLETT PARKER

A BRIEF SKETCH
OF THE LIFE
OF
Persis Follett Parker,
TOGETHER WITH
A FEW NOTES
OF
FAMILY HISTORY.

Ward, Harry Parker
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COLUMBUS, OHIO:
THE CHAMPLIN PRINTING CO.

1893.

CS71
F665
1893

Gift

A. P. Ward

1917

m.m.t. 17/8/14

My earliest recollections seem filled with the tarts, cookies and little round doughnuts that my grandmother made for me. As I grew older I learned to appreciate her friendship and to enjoy visits with her. Her stories of the hardships of her grandfathers who fought in the revolutionary war, her father, brother, uncles and cousins who fought in the war of 1812, and of her sons who fought in the great civil war, filled me with an intense admiration for my ancestors, an enthusiastic love of my country and its history, and a wild desire to be a soldier and wear my country's uniform. But in the last few years the beauty and strength of her character, her sincere devotion to, child-like faith in, and constant work for her Master, have caused me to see and appreciate the grandeur of her life.

This little sketch is offered to her descendants with the hope that, in refreshing their memories of her, their love for her God and her country may be quickened.

H. P. W.

Columbus, Ohio,
December 25, 1893.

Harry Parker Ward



PERSIS FOLLETT was born April 5, 1809, near Enosburgh, Vermont. Her father, Captain Martin D. Follett, most probably named her for her mother, Persis Fassett, although the name appears also in the Follett records five generations earlier when Robert Follett married Persis Black in 1655. The little Trout River ran through her father's farm which was situated in one of the most beautiful valleys of the picturesque Green Mountains, in the north-western corner of the state not many miles from the eastern shores of Lake Champlain and very near the Canadian border.

The house in which she was born was a large brick farm house of the typical old New England style, with its squared walls and great open fireplaces. It made a jolly home for a happy and affectionate family of father and mother and ten children. Her father had cleared the land late in

the nineties and built the home. This home was the scene of many a happy gathering, church meeting or singing school, and was noted as a place of entertainment for the ministers and missionaries who so frequently travelled to and fro in that country, for her father, though not a church member, took a lively interest in church matters, and had a fondness for entertaining ministers. Her mother was a most devout Christian woman and raised the children with all possible care and tenderness.

Her childhood must have been a happy one, surrounded by so many brothers and sisters, all of happy and lively dispositions. All were good singers, a gift which they inherited from both the Follett and Fassett families. It is said that at the social gatherings in the neighborhood Persis Follett was the liveliest of the young people, being always full of fun. To the close of her life she could make and take a joke, and relish a good story. Even during her last sickness when suffering much bodily pain she would at times joke with those about her.

Early in life she went through some of the experiences of war, her father being away two winters and one summer. One of his letters, a model of affection, true dignity and politeness, written while in the service, is still preserved. Her brother Harry was also in the army.

Her education, aside from what she received at home, was such as the Trout river valley schools could give, although at the age of twenty she began teaching in the same schools and taught for two summers before she was married.

On April 5, 1831, her twenty-second birthday, she was married to John Parker, who lived on the Comings farm which adjoined her father's farm. With him she was destined to live over sixty years of happiness; happiness in each other, in their children, and in their church work. But with their happiness came their full share of the sorrows and disappointments of this life. One great trial to them both was his deafness, which had been brought on by a severe cold in the head when he was only a year old, and which grew gradually worse as the years rolled by, until in

his old age it was a great effort for her to converse with him. In his late years he suffered constantly from bodily infirmities, which made him so helpless for the last few years of his life as to demand her constant attention.

John Parker was born May 31, 1807, on a farm near East Berkshire, Vermont. He was the only living child of John Parker who was born in 1782, at Tyringham, Massachusetts, and Betsey Jewett who was born February 29, 1784, also at Tyringham and married October 21, 1803, at East Berkshire. Their first child, Orin, born July 14, 1805, died after living four days. The father died August 15, 1808, at East Berkshire, and his widow subsequently married Andrew Comings, Captain Follett's next neighbor. To them were born Benjamin, December 2, 1810; Elam, April 22, 1812; Jane, March 2, 1816 (this daughter was married to Persis Follett's younger brother James); Andrew, December 27, 1817; William, December 22, 1820 (died April 6, 1823); Horace, September 10, 1822; (died October 14, 1823), and Willam A., May 8, 1826.

These therefore, were the junior John Parker's brothers and sister, although they bore a different name. John Parker the senior, was the fourth of five sons of Joseph Parker, who was born in 1757 at Windsor, Connecticut, and Hannah Risley, also of Windsor. The other sons were Ariel, Russell, Sterling and Chauncey. This Joseph Parker died in 1827, and his wife in 1850 at Richford, near Enosburgh and East Berkshire.

The early life of John Parker was accompanied by such hardships as those pioneer Green Mountain farmers experienced. The country was wild, and bears, wolves, wild-cats and panthers were plentiful. Once when a small boy he accompanied his step-father to Montreal with produce to sell, travelling by sled, part of the way on the ice on the St. Lawrence river, where they lost their way in a blinding snow storm and nearly perished with the cold. One of the most distinct recollections of his childhood was that of hearing, when a boy of seven years, the terrible cannonading in the great battle of Plattsburgh, September 11, 1814.

Incidentally it may be mentioned that that was one of the most prominent dates in the history of northwestern Vermont, for the result of that long drawn out and hard fought battle was the frustration of a brilliant scheme of invasion, the annihilation of a proud British naval force on Lake Champlain, and the turning back of a magnificent land force composed of from ten to fifteen thousand of the best troops of the Canadas and Great Britain. Cooper, in his History of the American Navy, says of Sir George Prevost, the British commander: "He made a precipitate and unmilitary retreat, abandoning much of his heavy artillery, stores and supplies, and from that moment to the end of the war the northern frontier was cleared of the enemy." This battle was of course of the utmost importance to the families of Captain Follett and Mr. Comings.

John Parker inherited a farm near East Berkshire on which he and his wife, Persis, lived for about four and a half years. That farm is now one of the best dairy farms in Franklin county.

It was on that farm that their first child, Jane Elizabeth, was born, February 12, 1833.

In the meantime Eliphalet Follett, an older brother to Mrs. Parker, had emigrated to Ohio and was making a success of dairy farming near Granville. He sent back such glowing accounts of Ohio, and of his prospects, that John Parker sold his farm in 1835, and, with his wife and little daughter, also emigrated to Granville.

The journey in those early days was no small undertaking, requiring almost as many days as it now takes hours to cover the same distance. They travelled a short part of the way on a horse railroad in eastern New York State, one of the first railroads in the country; thence by stage to Buffalo, steamer on Lake Erie to Cleveland, and canal boat to Newark, Ohio, the canal boat ride alone taking a week.

After their arrival in Granville, they rented several small farms in succession, finally purchasing a place a mile southwest of town on the old Columbus road. Here they lived and raised their children. In 1863 they sold the farm and bought

a large garden in the east end of Granville, which Mr. Parker operated in connection with the ice business of the town until old age required him to take life easier.

Not long after their arrival in Ohio, their second child, Henry Martin, was born on what was for many years known as the old Fassett farm, four miles southwest of town in Harrison township, December 11, 1835. Their other children were born in Granville township: Elam Dewey, September 20, 1839; Charles Delavern, August 19, 1844; Harriet Winslow, August 30, 1846, (died September 28, 1850), and Mary Elsinga, September 28, 1850. A great trial was the death of little "Hattie", a child of unusually bright and happy disposition. Hattie died in the morning and Mary was born in the afternoon of the same day.

One of the most prominent characteristics of the subject of this sketch was her interest in all matters pertaining to the education of the young. Her efforts toward and sacrifices for the education of her own children were often the subject of com-

ment among her acquaintances. Her daughter, Jane, (always known as Jennie), graduated in 1851, and Mary in 1868 from the Granville Female Seminary, an institution which had her sympathies and prayers for over half a century. Her sons all received a common school and academic education in Granville. Henry was graduated from Marietta College in 1859, and Elam from the same institution in 1863. Charles was prevented from entering college by delicate health, but after regaining his health in the army he pursued a special course at Dennison University in Granville.

Her efforts in the cause of education were not confined to her own children, for she always did what she could to influence others to see the great value to the church, the nation and the home, of educated young men and women, and many a young man or woman of meager means never forgot her kindly advice, or oftentimes material assistance, in the struggle for an education.

During the civil war she showed great interest in all the affairs of the country. On the morning

of August 20, 1862, her son Charles informed the folks at the breakfast table that he had enlisted the night before, (his eighteenth birthday), and was going off to the war. The consternation which followed that information may be easily imagined. But the son was given up to his country's service with that same spirit of loyalty that characterized so many thousands of mothers and fathers at that time. On one occasion, in the awful times when the newspapers were so frequently filled with long lists of the killed, wounded and missing, she cut from a bible the ninety-first Psalm and sent it in a letter to her boy who was far away at the front. What a feeling of trust in his mother's God, and love for his mother that son must have had, when, after one of those fearful charges in which the comrade at his right hand and the one at his left had fallen, one killed and the other wounded, and with a shot-hole through his own clothing, he read :

“ A thousand shall fall at thy side,
And ten thousand at thy right hand.
But it shall not come nigh thee.”

Her son Elam was in the service for one summer with a company of Marrietta College students, but was captured at the time of Stonewall Jackson's famous raid on Harper's Ferry, paroled, and sent home. Her daughter Jennie's husband was out for a short time with the force of militia which turned the Morgan raid in southern Ohio. Those were anxious times, but she came through them with that same trust and faith in God that was always the most prominent point in her character, and the modest pride that she ever afterwards took in the service that her sons rendered their country was well known to her near friends.

April 5, 1881, the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the wedding of John Parker and Persis Follett, was a date that will be remembered by all their descendants as one of their happiest recollections, and was no doubt one of the brightest days in the lives of the old couple. The morning was bitter cold and the ground covered with snow, something unusual for April in the Ohio climate, as if to remind the old Vermonters of the climate from which they had come nearly a

half century before. By ten o'clock every living descendant had reached the old home, and the spirit of fun and jolly good fellowship that was so characteristic of the mother and all her children, reigned supreme. Such a gathering of the children and the children's children, all of them with no living exceptions, had never taken place before, and never took place afterward. By noon many other relatives and connections, both old and young, had gathered in to see that large and happy family and to help honor the old couple. Of the members of the Follett family who were present, six had been present at the wedding in Vermont fifty years before: two sisters, Betsey (Mrs. Woodworth), Hannah (Mrs. Clark), one brother, James Follett, one nephew, Dr. Alfred Follett, and two nieces, Mrs. Eliza Fleek and Mrs. Fidelia Rose. An old fashioned New England dinner was served, the dining room and sitting room being crowded to their utmost capacity with tables loaded down with good things. Everybody relished that grand but informal dinner, and everybody enjoyed the remarks made and expe-



JOHN PARKER

riences told by the older ones. By night most of the happy party had gone, and it was but a few days until the old folks were again alone in the home of their old age.

Never did the true friendship and the kind, sympathizing heart of Mrs. Parker appear to better advantage than on the occasion of the death of her daughter Jennie's step-son, Will V. Ward, which occurred December 31, 1881. For many years she had treated the young man as her own son, and knowing how he had been loved and cared for in her daughter's family, upon hearing of his death she faced the elements on that cold winter day, and drove to Newark where she took a train for Zanesville. There she remained for some days, bringing sunshine into that sorrowing household by her acts and words of faith and hope and love. The good she accomplished at that time will always live in the memories of those she helped.

John Parker died August 17, 1891, of Bright's disease. What an indescribable impression of the power of the Christian religion was made

upon the writer and his young wife while they stood by the bedside of that noble old man of eight-four years, as he lay there suffering the agonies of a slow death, unconscious, but with his hands clasped in the hands of his companion of over sixty years, who prayed for him that he might soon be relieved from his suffering. For many months he had suffered intense pain, but his patience under it all was truly phenomenal. Almost his last conscious saying was the quotation from Timothy: "Let patience have her perfect work."

The Granville times in commenting upon his life said :

"He was of the real old New England stock, of sterling character, a loyal citizen, always taking a lively interest in everything concerning the welfare of his country, his state or his town. He was not a man who sought to push his opinions, but when approached upon any of the vital questions of the day, gave his belief in no uncertain sound. Owing to his deafness, he was for many years almost shut out from that delight which

comes from the social part of life. He was a Christian, very consistent in his daily life at home and abroad, always in his place in church, until increasing infirmities compelled him to forego this privilege. He especially gave evidence in the last eight months of his life, of the sustaining power of the Christian's God, suffering and patiently waiting for the call of the Master, which came at eleven o'clock Monday morning, August 17th, and could the message have been heard by those who watched the departing breath, we are sure it would have been, 'Come ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you' ".

Captain M. M. Munson, of Granville, in an obituary notice of Mrs. Parker's life states: "She was married to Mr. John Parker whom we all so well knew, and whose integrity and kindly bearing always commanded our respect and esteem. As old age crept on him, and the infirmities incident to human life doubled up, then it was that the wife was seen shining in greatest lustre. Her never-ending care and attention did much to solace our friend and neighbor during the

long months of suffering that came to him in the last of his long life."

About a year after the death of her husband, Mrs. Parker, then over eighty-three years of age, displayed her physical and mental powers by traveling (much of the way alone), from Granville to St. Paul, Minnesota, and back again, for the purpose of paying a visit to her two sons, Elam and Charles, in their new homes. After her return she visited her son Henry, in Elyria, Ohio, and her grand-son, Hubert H. Ward, in Cleveland. She seemed to thoroughly enjoy these visits and trips, but was heartily glad and satisfied to get back to Granville.

She then looked forward to spending a few years of peaceful quiet among her old friends and neighbors, for she dearly loved life, and very much disliked the idea of being older and weaker, and less able to do for herself. It was only at the most earnest and continued solicitation of her children that she gave up some of her every day household duties. But she had already done too much. At times spells of exhaustion came on,

and it became evident that her vigorous constitution was slowly yielding to the inevitable.

Her daughter Jennie was visiting her early in January, 1893, and prevailed upon her to return with her to her home in Columbus. She then left the old Granville home forever, not realizing at the time, as was certainly best, that it would be forever. She clung to life with that indomitable will power that never had known failure, until her eighty-fourth birthday, April 5th, when, in speaking of the beautiful flowers in her home garden, which would soon be blooming, she expressed a hope that on her next birthday she would be in a land where the flowers would be far more beautiful.

From that time on she grew steadily weaker, and was given all the careful watching and tender nursing that this world could give—not to keep her in this world, from which she was now so anxious to go, but to make her last days as comfortable as possible. Never before in her long life had she laid upon a bed of sickness, but the weaker her body grew, the stronger and more

beautiful was her Christian faith. Her daughter Mary (Mrs. Bell) came from her home in Wichita, Kansas, and her niece, Mrs. Rose, came from Granville, to assist in the loving duty of caring for her. Mrs. Grimsley, a former neighbor in Granville, and a very dear friend, often came to spend the night in the sick room, so that, even if away from her old associations and among strangers, she was surrounded by faces that she loved. Several times during the month of May it was thought death had come, her heart seeming to give out. Her vitality surprised even the doctors, who pronounced it equal to that of any young person. On wakening from the sinking spells she would recognize those about her, and speak almost as naturally as when in health, each time expressing a feeling of great disappointment that she must come back to this world again to be a care to those she loved, and to suffer so much pain; but she always comforted herself by repeating some scriptural promise, or the lines of some favorite hymn. On Sunday afternoon, May 28, 1893, at half past two o'clock,

she passed peacefully away from a beautiful sabbath day on earth to that far more beautiful eternal sabbath, for which she had so long sighed.

On the morning of May 31 her body, born by her three sons, her son-in-law H. C. Ward, and her grand sons Harry P. and Hubert H. Ward, was laid to rest by the side of that of her husband, in Maple Grove cemetery, Granville. The funeral services were held in the Presbyterian church, where, for so many, many years, she had been a most regular attendant, not only at the church services, but also at the midweek prayer meeting and the Sunday school. The impressive services were conducted by her pastor, Rev. E. W. Childs, assisted by her friend of many years, Rev. D. B. Hervey. The ladies of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, of which she had been an enthusiastic and hard-working member, had prepared beautiful and abundant floral decorations for the occasion, and the choir sang the hymns which she seemed most to love, "I Shall be Satisfied," "Abide with Me," and "Jesus, Lover of My Soul."

Thus closed a grand life. A great, towering oak in the forest of God's workers in this world had fallen. Her name is not emblazoned on the pages of history in letters of gold, and in a few years, or at most a few generations, she and we will be forgotten of men; but the inheritance which she now enjoys will remain forever and forever.



HISTORICAL NOTES

Hon. Martin Dewey Follett, of Marietta, Ohio, spent some time and money ten or fifteen years ago in searching records of one kind and another, and in traveling about in New England, for the purpose of tracing the Follett family as far back as possible. During his stay in this city, as one of the Judges of the Supreme Court of Ohio, I secured from him in 1885 many dates, etc., of interest to Follett descendants. From my grandmother and many other sources, I received many other items in the history of the Follett family since the time of the revolutionary war.

Hon. Elias Fassett, of Toledo, Ohio, an enthusiast on the history of the Fassett family, and Adjutant General T. S. Peck, of Vermont, have furnished me with many items of Fassett history.

From these sources much information has been derived, and it is with the thought that perhaps they will be interesting to some of the descendants of my grandmother, that a few notes on the subject are published.

H. P. W.

Columbus, Ohio,
December 25, 1893.

THE FOLLETT ANCESTORS

Names in the direct line of ancestry in *Italics*.

There is some doubt as to what country the Folletts came from, some thinking it was England, some Ireland, some France and some Denmark. Could the ancestry be traced back one generation farther, the question would be solved. One thing is sure, however, the name appears very early in colonial times.

Robert Follett married *Persis Black* in 1655. Their son, *Benjamin*, was living September 10, 1687. This *Robert* was a well-to-do farmer of Salem. Probably born about 1625 or 1630, died 1708.

Benjamin Follett was also a farmer and died 1752. He married *Patience Douler*, and their children were Elizabeth, born 1707, Abigail; 1709, Mary, 1711, *Benjamin*, 1715 (March 28), Hannah, 1716, Hezekiah, 1719, and Joseph, 1723.

Benjamin Follett, Jr., was born at Windham, Connecticut, and united with Windham church 1753. He married *Hannah Woodward*, November 10, 1736. She died May 2, 1757. Their children were, Nathan, born 1739; *Eliphalet*, 1741 (January 16, at Windham); Benjamin, 1742; Eunice, 1744, died 1747; Nathan, (second), 1748, died 1764; Amos, 1750, died 1751; Amos (second), 1752,

died 1754; Levi, 1756, died 1757; by second wife, Esther Robinson, Frederick, 1761, died 1804 at Gorham, New York.

Eliphalet Follett married March 8, 1764, *Elizabeth Dewey*, who was born July 14 1743, at Westfield. Their children were, *Martin Dewey*, (father of *Persis Follett*), born July 4, 1765, probably at Bennington, Vermont; married March 9, 1790 at Cambridge, Vermont, died February 4, 1831 at St. Albans, Vermont; Charles, July 16, 1767, died September 4, 1814, at Cambridge, Vermont; Elizabeth, May 4, 1769; *Eliphalet*, May 4, 1771, died August 30, 1778; Benjamin, July 22, 1774, died September 8, 1831; James, born July 2, 1776, died August 23, 1832 at Buffalo, New York; and *Eliphalet*, (second) January 10, 1779, died August 31, 1851. *Eliphalet*, the father, was killed July 3, 1778 in the Wyoming massacre by Indians and Tories at Kingston, Pennsylvania, on the Susquehanna river. He assisted in the defense of the place, but was shot while swimming the river. He was a well-to-do farmer. His silver shoe and knee buckles were handed down as heirlooms but have been lost.

Elizabeth Dewey Follett, the wife, had a most bitter experience in the Wyoming massacre. Just how the family came to be located in Pennsylvania is not known, but it is supposed that they had emigrated there from Vermont, and that what was left of the family subsequently returned to Vermont. However, at the time of the massacre it seems that the family was living on a well stocked farm at Kingston, Penn. When *Eliphalet* was killed, as above stated, the Indians

pillaged the home place, tearing things to pieces generally, the feather beds especially, to see the feathers fly, and they drove off all the stock except one old horse that was not worth taking away. The widowed mother put the only feather bed left on this horse and rode with two children beside her, the others walking, a distance of sixty miles. On this journey she fell and broke her arm, and was three days in the woods before assistance could be gotten. In after years she was married to Esquire Noble, of Pownell, Vt., where he died. She then went to her daughter Elizabeth (Betsey Reynolds), at Cambridge, Vt., a distance of about one hundred miles, the whole of which distance she rode on horse-back, at the age of eighty-five years. She was a short, thick-set, and very straight woman. It is said she never leaned back in a chair. Mrs. Hannah Clark, now ninety years of age, sister to *Persis Follett*, when a young woman spent some time with her grandmother at Mrs. Betsey Reynolds' home in Cambridge, Vt., and speaks in glowing terms of her. She died at the age of ninety-six.

Frederick Follett, half brother to the *Eliphale* who was killed, was shot, stabbed nine times, and scalped in the Wyoming massacre. An old account reads: "He used to swear and shoot all the Indians he could. Said when they had shot him, and set a young Indian to do the scalping, who made a bad job of it, cutting all around, that he would not have cared so much if they had done a good job." However, he recovered and lived to old age. Had three sons, Nathan, Oran and Frederick. Oran became a well-known newspaper man and member of the Legislature in

New York State. He nominated John Quincy Adams for President.

Martin Dewey Follett (the father of *Persis Follett*), although only thirteen years of age, assisted in the defense of Wyoming Valley. In the retreat mentioned in the note on *Elizabeth Dewey Follett*, his mother, he lead and carried his brother James, two years of age. Stopping once at the house of a tory, he appropriated, without the knowledge of his mother, a pair of shoes for his bare-footed brother, and did not produce them until so far along the way that he knew his mother would not send him back with them. He was, however, an honest, upright man, noted for his politeness. He evidently served in the revolutionary war. His daughters, Hannah, (now Mrs. Clark, of Hartford, Ohio), then ten years of age, and *Persis*, then four years of age, were authority for the statement that he was in the army in the war of 1812, two winters and one summer. One record states that he was in the battle of Plattsburgh. The Adjutant General of Vermont has certified under seal to the following: "From a muster roll of a company of Militia of Vermont, under command of *Martin D. Follett*, in the service of the United States, commanded by Luther Dixon, Lt. Col. commanding, it appears that *Martin D. Follett* served, as a captain, from Sept. 25. 1813, three months." He also stated in a letter, "The three months service at Plattsburgh is all I can find of *M. D. Follett* as captain. The service of the same man in 1779 does not seem to me improbable, although he could have been only fourteen years old. I am assured by the State Librarian and the Assistant Secretary of State,

men who have been in this state house many years, and know a great deal about revolutionary records, that they know many cases where men served as early as fourteen." And again, "I find further service of *Martin Follett* without any D. I have no doubt this is the same man. The records are so full of mistakes, are left in such an indefinite way," etc. He also certifies under seal that *Martin Follett* served as a private seventy-nine days in "Lieut. Jon'a Scott's company in Col. Sam'l Herrick's regiment of Militia in the service of the American United States, raised for the purpose of guarding the public stores in Bennington, by order of Gen. Stark to His Excellency Gov. Chittenden," in 1778 and 1779. Also that *Martin D. Follett* served 40 days in "Capt. Thomas Sawyer's company of Militia, raised for the defense of the northern frontier of the United States," in May and June, 1779. And that *Martin Follett* served eleven days in "Capt. Joseph Safford's company of Militia, in Col. Eben'r Walbridge's regiment in an alarm to Castleton" in October, 1781. He represented his county in the Vermont Legislature eight years, and was also a Judge of Common Pleas. He was known by two titles—*Captain* and *Judge Follett*.

His brother Charles was also a captain in the war of 1812. He took sick in the service, obtained leave of absence and returned home to Cambridge, Vt., where he died, only a few days before the battle of Plattsburgh. His sister Elizabeth married Dr. William Reynolds, and raised a large family. His brother Benjamin also served in the war of 1812, being in the battle of Plattsburgh. Benjamin's children were Benjamin, Leodwick, Eliza and Olive.

His brother James married Sally Kelly, and their children were Charles D. (died one year old), James D., Sarah C., Martin P., Charles L., William R., Nerina A., and Stephen D. His brother Eliphalet also raised a large family, Dewey, Abel, Julia, Clarence, Theoda, Betsey, Tryfena and Fannie. Four were living in 1882. *Captain Martin Dewey Follett* died Feb. 4, 1831, at St. Albans, Vt. For notice of his wife see Fassett notes. Their children were ten in number, and will be mentioned with their families, as follows:

First. John Fassett Follett, born Oct. 30, 1791, at Cambridge, Vt., married Nov. 6, 1816, at East Berkshire, to Sarah Lemira Woodworth, who was born April 29, 1790. She died Jan. 23, 1863, and he May 27, 1863, at Granville, Ohio. He was a farmer, and came from Vermont to Johnstown and Granville. His children, all born in Vermont, were: Harriet (Mrs. Jewett), born April 29, 1818; Sophronia (Mrs. Lewis), born July 13, 1819, died Dec. 4, 1867; Charles (Judge Follett, of Newark, O.), born Dec. 14, 1820; Alfred (Dr. Follett, Sr., of Granville), born Sept. 1, 1822; Fidelia (Mrs. Rose, of Granville), born May 28, 1824; Martin Dewey (Judge Follett, of Marietta, O.), born Oct. 8, 1826; George (of New York City), born Sept. 28, 1828; John Fassett (once member of Congress from Cincinnati, Ohio), born Feb. 18, 1831; and Austin Willey (of New York City), born Aug. 5, 1833.

Second. Martin Dewey Follett, born July 8, 1793, at Cambridge, Vt., married Feb. 12, 1816, at Pomphret, Vt., to Lurania Winchell, who was born May 9, 1797, at Granville, Mass. He was a farmer, and died Sept. 18, 1865, at Royalton, Vt., and she died Aug. 19, 1869, at Sharon, Vt.

Their children were: Sally Persis, born Feb. 20, 1817; Truman, March 6, 1820, (died 1823); Lucy F., (Mrs. Goff) Feb. 23, 1823 (died 1877); Ammi, Feb. 12, 1825; Norman, June 6, 1827; and Calista Ann, (Mrs. Miller), Feb. 17, 1829. All born at Enosburgh and seem to have remained in Vermont.

Third. Harry Follett, born March 8, 1795, at Cambridge, Vermont, married 1819, at Berkshire, Vermont, to Clarissa Pond, who was born Sept. 7, 1798, at Hyde Park, Vermont. He died Jan. 17, 1875, at Richford, Wisconsin. Their children were: Cassius Fay, born March 10, 1821, (died 1843); Henry Fitch, Feb. 24, 1824; Elias, Feb. 11, 1826; Matilda Clarissa, May 6, 1832; Sanford, June 6, 1834; and Luther Martin, Aug. 10, 1840. A Washishara county (Wisconsin) paper, in an obituary of Harry Follett, says: "Thus passed away, full of years and usefulness, one of the pioneers of Washishara county. He was a soldier in the war of 1812. and in 1843 he represented his town in the legislature of his native state, and held several other offices of trust and responsibility during his residence in the state. He came to Wisconsin in September, 1855, and settled on the farm which was his home until the time of his decease. He held the office of Justice of the Peace for a number of years, discharging the duties pertaining to it with ability and integrity," etc. His five living children reside in Washishara county, Wisconsin.

Fourth. Elizabeth (Betsey) Follett, born Nov. 30, 1797 at Cambridge, Vermont, was married to Truman Woodworth at Enosburgh, Vermont, and died Sept. 27, 1884, at Granville, Ohio. Their children were: Eliza, (Mrs. Fleek, of

Newark, O.), May 31, 1820, (died March 31, 1891, at Granville, O.); Rosetta, 1822, (died 1885 at Granville); Persis, 1824, (died July 10, 1888, at Granville); and Truman Thompson, (recently removed with his family to Riverside, Cal.) Betsey came to Ohio early in the thirties, coming from Saratoga, N. Y., where she had lived for a few years.

Fifth. Sally, born Jan. 30, 1799, died Feb. 26, 1804.

Sixth. Hannah Follett was born Oct. 31, 1803, at Enosburgh, Vt. Came to Licking county, Ohio, with her brother Eliphalet and her mother, and kept house for them until his marriage. Lived with them a number of years afterward until her marriage to Strong Clark, a widower with three children. She possessed an exceptionally fine voice, which retained its compass and purity of tone until her eighty-third year. She is now ninety years of age, and lives quietly at Hartford, Licking county, Ohio. She is of a sunny, pleasant disposition and solid character, and is very energetic.

Seventh. Eliphalet Follett, born Dec. 4, 1805, at Enosburgh, married at Johnstown, Ohio, Aug. 9, 1837, to Catherine Ellen Van Sickle, who was born July 4, 1812, near Philadelphia, Pa., and who died at Cleveland, Ohio, Oct. 10, 1889. He died April 23, 1887, at Cleveland, Ohio. Both buried at Granville. After his father's death in 1831, came to Ohio. Stopped first at Gambier, where he spent a little time as a student. Came on to Granville, where he began dairy farming. Returned to Vermont, and brought back his mother and sister Hannah. He sometimes took his cheese as far as New Orleans for a market. He lived also at Johnstown and Alexandria, near Granville,

a number of years. Moved to Oberlin to educate his children. Then lived in Colorado two years, then in Kansas several years, returning to Granville to spend his old age. A man of force and solid Christian character. His children were: Dwight, born June 12, 1838, (died 1862, in army hospital); Lewis, June 20, 1840 (was adjutant 76th O. V. I.); Howard, April 25, 1843 (a soldier in 1864-5); Ruth, died 1846; Henrietta Janette (Mrs. Judge Stone, of Cleveland), March 9, 1848; Frank and Fannie (Mrs. Salade, of Kansas), twins, June 15, 1852; and William, Feb. 20, 1858.

Eighth. Charles Follett, born Feb. 4, 1808, died March 28, 1808, at Enosburgh.

Ninth. *Persis Follett*. See pages 5 to 24.

Tenth. James Follett, born Feb. 24, 1811, at Enosburgh, and married Oct. 5, 1837, at East Berkshire, to Jane Comings (*John Parker's* sister), who was born March 2, 1816, at East Berkshire, and died Feb. 26, 1864, at Hartford, Ohio. It was his intention early in life to become a minister, but poor health interfered. Came to Licking county, Ohio, very early, and returned to Vermont to marry. Cleared his farm near Granville. Later he bought a farm near Hartford. Is now living at Hartford, nearly eighty-three years of age, as pleasant an old gentleman as one can meet. He has an irreproachable Christian character. His children (all born in Licking county, Ohio), were: James William, Jan. 1, 1839, died March 2, 1840; Ellen Betsey (Mrs. Wells), Sept. 12, 1840; Hannah Persis, July 10, 1842, died July 7, 1869; Sarah Janette (Mrs. Lincoln), April 15, 1845; Mary Janette, Jan. 1, 1848, died in school at Oberlin, Ohio, Aug. 19, 1867; Martha, Aug. 4, 1849, died next day; Fannie, June 12, 1854, died same day; Fay Comings, Oct. 8, 1856.

THE FASSETT ANCESTORS.

[Names in the direct line of ancestry in *Italics*.]

The following are self-explanatory:

TOLEDO, O., Nov. 23, 1893.

MAJOR HARRY P. WARD, Columbus, O.:

Dear Sir—I owe you an apology for not writing, but my excuse is the fact that I have been waiting for documents in relation to the early history of the Fassett family. The first of which I have any record is *Patrick Fassett*, who was a resident and tax payer of Billerica, Mass., in 1670 or 1671, and where his third son, *Josiah*, was born in 1674. There were at least three sons, John, *Josiah* and Joseph. I have an old bible, printed in London in 1611, which John Fassett bought, and for which he paid fifty pounds, which I think was a pretty good price even at that time. The record in this bible reads, "Dr. John Fassett, who bought this book, died Jan. ye 30th, 1736-7, aged 62 years." John Fassett, in his last will, left this book to his wife, Mary Fassett. Mary Fassett died March 19, 1748-9. She, in her last will, left this book to *John Fassett*, son to *Josiah Fassett*. This *John Fassett* was my great-grandfather, and your great-great-grandfather. This *John Fassett* was born in East Cambridge, Mass., in 1720, and was married to *Mary Wolley* in Bedford, Mass., May 14, 1741. He was living in Hardwick, Mass., after 1750, and, with a number of other families who became prominent in Vermont, emigrated to Bennington in 1761. At his house the first town meeting was held. He helped to build the first meeting house, and was a deacon in the church. In Jennings' History of Bennington it is said he

was a staunch separatist in principle and feeling through life. A common saying which has been handed down illustrates his punctuality and strictness in religious duties: "It is as true as that *John Fasset* will be at prayer-meeting at such an hour." He seems to have been a military man, as he was chosen captain of the first military company formed in town, October, 1764, by which title he was afterwards distinguished. He was one of the two representatives of the town in the first State Legislature. He was the leader of the choir of the first church in Bennington, and for one hundred years his descendants were leaders of the choir in the same church, so you see he was noted as a singer.

He had quite a large family, eight children, five sons and three daughters. He died in Bennington Aug. 12, 1794, aged 74 years and 4 months.

His oldest son, *John*, in whom we are more directly interested, was born in Bedford, Mass., June 23, 1743, and was married to *Hannah Safford* in Bennington in 1764. Jennings says, "*John Fasset, Jr.*, united with this church Aug. 29, 1765. He was one of the two representatives from Arlington in 1778, and was elected one of the Council in 1779, which office he held, with the exception of the years 1785 and 1786, until 1795, and he was also a judge of the Supreme Court for eight years, 1778-1786."

I have his diary, kept from Sept. 1, 1775, to Feb. 22, 1776. This refers to the expedition of Gen. Montgomery to Montreal, in which he served as quartermaster. At that time he returned to Bennington and enlisted for the war, and was made captain. The diary kept by him for the later period was burned at the time his house burned. He

had command of Fort Winooski, near Burlington, but I have nothing as to the date.

His children were: Sarah, *Persis*, who was your great-grandmother, John, Elias, Susanna, Joseph, Chellis and Hannah. Elias Fassett was a colonel in the war of 1812-13. Hiram Harwood, in his diary, 1812, says: "Monday, June 7, 1813, many of us went down to where Col. Fassett's regiment took its departure for Burlington, which they did in a brilliant manner." He was Colonel of the 30th United States Infantry in the war of 1812. He was the father of Elias Fassett and Dr. Harry Fassett, of Granville, whom you no doubt have met.

This is all I can think of that would interest you, but if there is anything more that you would like to know about, I will be very glad to write you. I am,

Truly yours,

ELIAS FASSETT.

[Extract from a Vermont History, called "Governor and Council."]

"*John Fassett, Jr.*, was born in Hardwick, Massachusetts, June 3, 1743, and came to Bennington with his father, *Deacon and Captain John Fassett* in 1761, removed to Arlington in 1777 and to Cambridge in 1784. Few men were more constantly in public service than *John Fassett, Jr.* He was lieutenant in Warner's First Regiment in 1775, and captain in Warner's Second in 1776. In 1777 he was one

of the commissioners of sequestration, and, with Governor Chittenden and Matthew Lyon, successful in subduing the Tories of Arlington. He was elected representative of Arlington in the General Assembly for 1778 and 1779, and for Cambridge in 1787, 1788, 1790 and 1791, though in 1779, 1787, 1788, 1790 and 1791 he was also elected Councillor. He served in each office portions of the time. He was a member of the Council in 1779, and until 1795 with the exception of 1786, fifteen years. He was Judge of the Superior Court from its organization in 1778 until 1786, eight years; and Chief Judge of Chittenden County Court from 1787 until 1794, seven years."

STATE OF VERMONT,
 ADJUTANT AND INSPECTOR GEN'L'S OFFICE,
 BURLINGTON, Dec. 7, 1893.

I hereby certify that the following is a correct transcript from the records on file in this office, regarding soldiers who served in the Revolutionary war. Extract from a pay roll, it appears that *John Fassett, Jr.*, was appointed, at Dorset, July 26, 1775, First Lieutenant in Captain Wait Hopkins' First Company, in Lieut. Col. Seth Wamer's Regiment, and promoted Captain in 1776. He was also promoted in October, 1777, as Commissary to the Hospital at Bennington. The length of his service is not given here.

[SEAL OF VERMONT.]

(Signed) T. S. PECK,
 Adj't and Insp'r Gen'l.

STATE OF VERMONT,
 ADJUTANT AND INSPECTOR GEN'L'S OFFICE, }
 MONTPELIER, Dec. 11, 1893.

MAJOR HARRY P. WARD, Columbus, O.:

Sir—I find this morning, in a "Historical Register of the United States Army," that Elias Fassett enlisted Feb. 23, 1813, from Vermont, or was rather appointed, as Colonel of the 30th Infantry, and was honorably discharged June 15, 1815.

Respectfully,

T. S. PECK,
 Adj't and Insp'r Gen'l.

Persis Fassett, daughter of *John Fassett, Jr.*, and *Hannah Safford*, and mother of *Persis Follett*, was born Aug. 3, 1767, at Bennington, Vt., and married to *Martin Dewey Follett* March 9, 1790, by her father, at Cambridge, Vt. She was a small woman of much energy and force of character, although very quiet and mild in her disposition. She was a great reader and a thoroughly independent thinker, retaining her own ideas on many subjects, but with it all, was a woman of beautiful, unobtrusive Christian piety, a home lover and home maker. Her great love for her children, her husband and her home, was well known, and to this day she is remembered most affectionately by her grandchildren. It is said she never made an audible prayer that did not contain a petition that the grace of God might rest upon all her descendants to the last generation.

After the death of her husband, in 1831, she came to Granville, Ohio, with her son Eliphalet, who had already

been in Granville and had returned to Vermont for her. Her daughter Hannah also accompanied her. They came late in the fall, when the winds were high and the weather disagreeable, traveling from Buffalo to Cleveland by lake, and from Cleveland to Granville in a wagon. It is said that her daughter Hannah held an umbrella in front of her mother much of the way to shield her from the wind, as she was then in poor health. By some mishap their household goods were left in Buffalo when navigation was closed by the ice, on account of which they were put to great inconvenience until the following spring. She was very tenderly cared for in her son Eliphalet's home until she died, after a brief illness, Aug. 29, 1849, at Johnstown, near Granville, Ohio, having passed the age of eighty-two years.

THE PARKER-FOLLETT DESCENDANTS.

Jane Elizabeth Parker (Mrs. Ward, of Columbus, O.), born Feb. 12, 1833, at East Berkshire, Vt., was married on Christmas morning, 1861, at Granville, Ohio, to Hudson Champlin Ward, who was born July 20, 1830, on the British ship "Hudson," in the English Channel. Their children are: Clara, born June 29, 1864, and died Aug. 9, 1864, at the Parker home in Granville; Harry Parker, born Sept. 22, 1865, at Zanesville, Ohio (married Nov. 17, 1890, at Columbus, Carolyn Pocock, who was born Jan. 17, 1868, at Bloomfield, Coshocton county, Ohio. Their child, Dorothy, born Nov. 23, 1893, at Columbus, O.); Hubert Herrick, born June 26, 1869, at Zanesville, Ohio; (married April 20, 1891, Harriet S. Porter, at Cleveland, Ohio); and Annette Persis, born October 16, 1873, at the Parker home in Granville.

Henry Martin Parker (of Elyria, Ohio), born Dec. 11, 1835, at Granville, married, Aug. 29, 1860, at Granville, Clara E. Rose, who was born May 25, 1837, at Granville, and died Feb. 10, 1865, at Granville. Their child, Charles Henry, was born Dec. 27, 1864. Henry Martin Parker again married July 26, 1866, at Mansfield, Ohio, Nancy Mitchell, who was born Aug. 21, 1840. Their children are George Mitchell, born July 3, 1871, and Mary Clara, born Jan. 27, 1874.

Elam Dewey Parker (of St. Paul, Minn.), born Sept. 20,

1839, at Granville, married, Sept. 12, 1866, at Mattoon, Illinois, Isabel J. Willard, who was born March 22, 1846. Enlisted May 28, 1862, in Co. A, 87th Ohio Vol. Infantry, and mustered out with company Oct. 1, 1862.

Charles Delavan Parker (of St. Paul, Minn.), born Aug. 19, 1844, married July 6, 1876, at Des Moines, Iowa, Frances Comings, who was born in 1851, a descendant of the old Comings family of Enosburgh, Vt. Their children are: Isabel Davis, born May 10, 1877, at St. Paul; Edward Cary, born in August, 1881, at St. Paul; and John, born in August, 1891, at St. Paul. Enlisted Aug. 20, 1862, in Co. D, 113th Ohio Vol. Infantry, participated in fourteen of the battles and many of the skirmishes of the civil war. Mustered out as corporal, July 25, 1865. Was Commander of Department of Minnesota, Grand Army of the Republic, 1891.

Harriet Winslow, born Aug. 30, 1846, died Sept. 28, 1850. See page 12.

Mary Elsinga Parker (Mrs. Bell, of Wichita, Kas.), born Sept. 28, 1850, at Granville; was married Dec. 28, 1882, to Alfred J. Bell, then of New Orleans, La.